TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 25, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 20 totaled an estimated 16.8 billion ton-miles, 8.6 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative traffic volume for the first 42 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 753.9 billion ton-miles, 13.0 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 20 totaled 370,322, down 9.6 percent from last year, and 2.8 percent below the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.1 percent in the South, but down 20.6 percent in the East and 7.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 17 of the 21 commodity groups declined. The sharpest decline was in coal loadings, a reflection of heavy stockpiling during the first nine months of the year. Eleven of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended October 13 totaled 56,425 cars, up 14.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 92,843 trailers and/or containers, 7.5 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 41 weeks of the year was 2,101,782 cars, 15.1 percent higher than last year, and 3,611,017 trailers and/or containers, up 14.0 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/20/84:

	Loadings in Week ended Oct. 20, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	22,819	D	7,504	24.7	D	1,165	5.1
Other farm products	4,764	D	1,500	23.9	I	389	8.2
Metallic ores	13,677	D	7,081	34.1	D	6,729	49.2
Coal	94,579	D	20,038	17.5	D	3,361	3.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,972	I	2,652	23.4	I	248	1.8
Nonmetallic minerals	11,111	D	1,705	13.3	D	362	3.3
Grain mill products	10,544	D	1,477	12.3	I	113	1.1
Food and kindred products	11,176	D	1,154	9.4	I	47	0.4
Primary forest products	13,134	D	1,755	11.8	I	198	1.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,278	D	111	1.5	I	227	3.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,442	D	709	4.7	D	102	0.7
Chemicals and allied products	24,114	D	514	2.1	D	347	1.4
Petroleum products	4,647	D	150	3.1	D	250	5.4
Stone, clay and glass products	11,121	D	437	3.8	D	301	2.7
Coke	4,904	D	36	0.7	D	442	9.0
Metals and products	8,004	D	838	9.5	I	35	0.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,140	I	345	1.7	D	117	0.6
Waste and scrap materials	9,487	I	488	5.4	I	273	2.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,722	D	1,068	12.2	D	210	2.7
All other carloads	62,448	I	3,531	6.0	I	1,181	1.9
LCL traffic	239	D	47	16.4	I	60	25.1
Total Cars Loaded	370,322	D	39,108	9.6	D	10,615	2.8
Corresponding week of 1983	409,430						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (42 weeks)	16,655,593	15,201,152	I 9.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
41 weeks ended October 13	737.1	648.8	I 13.6
Week ended October 20,	16.8	18.3	D 8.6
42 weeks cumulative	753.9	667.1	I 13.0

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